Drags Prices Equalisation Account

17. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the objective for creating the Drugs Pdaces Equalisation Account;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government now proposed to abolish this account;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a huge amount is due from the Drug Industry on this account; and

(e) what is the amount due upto the 30th June, 1987 and how much has been collected from 1980 onwards giving the name of each Drug company, the amount collected along with the drug formation involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS. AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Drug Prices Equalisation Account was essentially set-up to encourage domestic production of bulk drugs through a system of retention prices. However, in actual practice the operation of Drug Prices Equalisation account is giving rise to intractable administrative problems. It was therefore, decided to discontinue the system of retention and pooled pricing.

M/s. Fulford India out of the total amount of Rs. 194.62 lakhs due from the company in respect of bulk drug Gentamycin and formulations. Other details are not readily available and being quite voluminous, time and effort required to collect these will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

World Bank recommendation on MRTP Limits

18. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister *pi* INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has made certain recommendations with regard to the delicensing, monopoly control, MRTP limits, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the aalient features thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM); (a) to (c). The Report referred to by the hon. Member is prepared and circulated by the World Bank to the donor countries/agencies each year prior to the Annual India Consortium meeting in order to focus on salient aspects of the Indian economy and to serve as a background paper during the discussions.

It is, however, an internal document of the World Bank. The report is not published. The views and suggestions expressed in the report are those of the World Bank. The distribution of this report by the Bank is restricted and the recipients of the report are not authorised to disclose its contents.

It is, therefore, not considered appropriate to indicate the reaction of

the Government on the recommendations made by the World Bank.

Non-performance of R & D in BHEL

19. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the Minister of IN DUSTRY he pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Science Advisory Committee of the Cabinet has recently gene into the R & D in BHEL to know the reasons for its non-performance;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) what srteps ere contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to
(c) A Committee has been constituted by the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to look into R & D in BHEL. The Committee has not submitted the report.

Increase in Crude Oil Import Bill.

20. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the Minister of PET ROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by what percentage country's crude oil import bill is anticipated to rise during the current year as compared to the previous year 1986-87;

(b) what is the comparative percentage of rise in the domestic de mand for crude oil anticipated dur-the current year as compared to the
demand in 1986-87;

(c) what is the anticipated percen tage of rise in the domestic produc tion of crude oil during the current year as aSainst the target and the extent *to* which the domestic demand is likely to be met as a result there of; and

(d) what are the reasons for not achieving the crude oil production target during the current year stating the extent to which the new oil fields discovered in the country have been exploited so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The crude oil import bill is anticipated to rise by 46 per cent during the current year as compared to the previous year 1986-87.

(b) The processing requirement of crude oil during 1987-88 IS estimated to rise by 2.4 per cent over the year 1986-87.

(c) During 1987-88 the target production of crude oil in the country is 30.46 MMT. This is expected to be met. The degree of self reliance will be 61.05 per cent with reference to the total petroleum products demand.

(d) Does not arise as target of crude oil production during the current year is expected to be met."

Strike in Heavy Engineering, Ranchi

21. SHRI CHITTA BASU; Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a prolonged strike in the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi recently, causing immense loss to it; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the strike and the efforts made by Government to avert or end the strike?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (s) and (b). Yes, Sir. The reasons for the strike and the resultant lock-out are the multiplicity of Unions. inter-union and intra-union rivalries and